(iii) In order to improve the viability and competitiveness of textile industry, efforts are on to rationalise fiscal duty structure in consultation with industry and other concerned organisation.

(iv) The Textile Sector has, *inter-alia*, been extended the facility of concessional rate of import duty @ 5% under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme.

(v) Upgradation through appropriate training programmes, providing comprehensive testing facility through network of laboratories.

(vi) The Government has placed all the textile fibre/yarn under O.G.L. to augment the availability of such fibre/yarn to the textile mills.

Export of Textile items

3516. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minsiter of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of exporting cloth, ready made garments, cotton yarn and cotton during the last five years and till-date;

(b) The details of foreign exchange earned from the export of these items during this period, year-wise and item-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The year-wise and item-wise details of exports of readymade garment, cotton yarn and cotton fabrics have been as under:—

(*Figures in Million US$*)

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Readymade Garment	4453.3	4762.1	4910.7	5268.4	5524.5
Cotton Fabrics	1022.61	1104.20	1111.66	1100.73	1094.28
Cotton Yarn	1004.53	1510.93	1571.46	1415.40	1541.05

The exports of raw cotton for the last five cotton year (October-September) have been as under:—

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-200 (upto 24.2.2000)
Quantity (in lakh bales)	8.40	16.82	3.4937	1.01253	0.13738
Value (In Rs. crores)	1010.52	1655.00	316.85	86.7162	11.1759

(c) Government have been taking several steps from time to time for increasing exports. Some of the important initiatives taken specifically in respect of the textile sector are as under:

(1) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme has been made operational with effect from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector.

(2) The New Export Entitlement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000—2004 has been announced recently to provide stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.

(3) Non-Quota Entitlement (NQE) System for encouraging non-quota exports to quota and non-quota countries has been retained to boost exports in apparel sector-value added segment of Indian textiles.

(4) The facility to import capital goods under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme at 5% concessional rate of duty.

(5) Exports of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/EPCG units has been liberalised.

(6) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings & embellishments has been allowed.

Support-price for Mulberry and Non-Mulberry Cocoon

3517. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the support price fixed for Mulberry and Non-Mulberry Cocoon during Ninth Five Year Plan and allocated amount for each category, State-wise;

(b) the particulars of research schemes on Mulberry and Non-Mulberry silk, outlays for Ninth Plan, objective and achievement of research schemes indicating locations and subject of research;

(c) whether Government have undertaken any specific programme to propagate the Muga and Eri Silk; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There is no support price system for mulberry and non-mulbery cocoons. However, Central Silk Board (CSB) has